

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds incurred on population control measures in the country by the United Nations Population Fund during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of the results achieved so far; and
- (c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control population?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): UNFPA has been assisting the Government of India, through its five year Country Programmes on reproductive health, gender and population development issues. Under its Country Programmes, UNFP has incurred USD 13 Million, 14 Million, 13 Million and 10.49 Million respectively in terms of their Annual Plan of Operation for the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 (estimated expenditure up to 31/12/2008) respectively.

UNFPA joined as one of the Development Partners in the year 2005 for the implementation of phase-II of Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The NRHM goals mandate reduction of Maternal Mortality Ratio to 100 per 1,00,000 live births, Infant Mortality Rate to 30 per 1,000 live births and Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by 2012. Against the above goals, IMR of 55 per 1,000 live births (SRS-2007), MMR of 301 per 1,00,000 live births (SRS 2001-2003) and TFR of 2.7 (SRS-2007) have been achieved.

The RCH-II Programme had adopted an approach in which fertility reduction goes hand in hand with reduction in Maternal and Child Mortality. The current fertility trend of 2.7 children per woman in India in NFHS-III is faster than replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to check population control:-

- (i) National Family Planning Insurance Scheme has been started since Nov.2005 to provide insurance cover to the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and death and also indemnity insurance cover to doctors/health facilities;
- (ii) The revision of comprehensive package in Sep. 2007 to compensate for loss of wages and also to provide compensation to providers of services. It also provides for partnerships with non-governmental sector;
- (iii) Specific action points/strategies have been incorporated in the States Projects Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) every year to address the upgradation of Family Planning Services and increase the number of providers;
- (iv) Promoting acceptance of no Scalpel Vasectomy to ensure male participation;
- (v) Promoting IUD 380 A intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages of other IUDs;
- (vi) Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year made possible on account of growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.

In addition, the Government has a dedicated programme to undertake research for development and evaluation of contraceptive technologies for both males and females. During the last three decades, Government has evaluated different types of Intrauterine devices, Oral Contraceptives, injectable and implantable contraceptives for their efficacy and acceptability. In order to help couples with a backup method to prevent unwanted pregnancy, the emergency contraceptives have been introduced which are very useful method for preventing unplanned and unintended pregnancies.